

## Bush to battle for aid cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush will press for cuts of up to 10 per cent in foreign aid to Israel, Egypt and other major recipients, according to a senior administration official. The official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the administration had decided to cut aid to Israel, Egypt and Jordan. The cuts would be made over a five-year period, he said. The official said the cuts would be made over a five-year period, he said. The official said the cuts would be made over a five-year period, he said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية: الراي

## Three Palestinians killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Three Palestinians were killed and 15 injured when what was described as a family feud in the Israeli-occupied West Bank erupted in violence this week, Palestinian news Friday. Chahar said only after Palestinians from nearby villages moved in to enforce a truce on the northern West Bank village of Arabah near Jericho, residents said. The dispute centered on money and property, they said. It began between two men from the same village, the Al Saeed and Al Haj Hassan families, but quickly engulfed most of the 600 inhabitants. Arguments between young men became increasingly violent, they said, and Fawaz Al Saeed, 24, and his brother Abdul Rahman, 22, were killed, allegedly by members of the Al Haj Hassan family. Fawaz Al Haj Hassan, 64, the village head and patriarch of the opposing clan, was also killed in the fighting, they said. Witnesses said Palestinians, many known activists of the Palestinian uprising, were now patrolling Arabah, checking identity cards of people wishing to enter the village, to prevent further violence.

Volume 15 Number 4306

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1990, RAJAB 8, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## CBJ probes 'forged' JD 20 bill

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Thursday that it was investigating fresh reports about forged Jordanian currency found in the occupied Gaza Strip, and will deal with the problem in cooperation with security authorities. A bank statement, which came in the wake of the discovery of allegedly forged JD 20 bills in the Gaza, said that a similar discovery was made there four years ago when JD 20 bills were brought to the Kingdom from residents of the occupied West Bank. The CBJ statement said that the Israeli authorities were whipping up propaganda campaigns against the Jordanian economy to spread fears among Palestinians who trade in Jordanian currency. Any citizen can easily discern the difference between the genuine and forged bank notes as the contrast are quite obvious to all, the bank's statement added. It said that the reports about the discovery of the forged currency were published in Israeli and West Bank press and broadcast by Israeli radio which tends to throw suspicion and sow seeds of fear among Palestinians about the Jordanian economy.

## Jordan, Guatemala set up formal ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Guatemala have signed an agreement providing for establishing diplomatic relations, Foreign Ministry said. It added that the agreement, going into effect Jan. 31, provides for non-resident diplomatic representation.

## 4 killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) — At least four people were killed and nine injured Friday when paramilitary police fired on demonstrators in troubled Kashmir, where India is trying to stamp out a secessionist movement. Paramilitary police in the town of Sopore, 50 kilometres from Srinagar, fired into a stone-throwing crowd, killing four persons on the spot and sending six others to the hospital with bullet wounds, police and hospital sources said.

## Life sentence for Ceausescu aides

BUCHAREST (R) — Four top aides to executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Bucharest military tribunal Friday. Former Interior Minister Tudor Postolnicu, former Deputy Premier Ion Dinca, Ceausescu's deputy Emil Bobu and Manca Manescu, previously the vice-president, were jailed and deprived of their civil rights and personal wealth.

## Baker to testify to Soviet panel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will make history by testifying before a committee of the Supreme Soviet during his visit to Moscow next week, a State Department official said Friday. The official said Baker would appear before the Supreme Soviet's International Affairs Committee Saturday, Feb. 10. He would make a 10-minute opening statement and then answer committee members' questions. "This is unprecedented," the official said. He said Baker would answer on any subjects put to him.

## Zhivkov hospitalised

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's deposed Communist leader Todor Zhivkov, awaiting trial for misrule after being ousted last November, was admitted to hospital Friday and placed under intensive care, the official BTA news agency said. Bulgarian authorities earlier Friday denied rumours that Zhivkov, 78, was dead. "Bulgaria's former leader Todor Zhivkov was moved today to a hospital where he is under house arrest and constant medical observation," BTA said. It did not report his medical condition.

## De Klerk legalises ANC, promises early release for Mandela

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — President F.W. de Klerk Friday legalised the African National Congress (ANC) after 30 years of ban and promised early release for Nelson Mandela, who would soon be free. The president also scrapped other restrictions on opposition activity in a bid to draw the ANC into negotiations on a new constitution. De Klerk's speech to parliament reversed decades of ruling National Party policy and further eroded the apartheid system of racial segregation and political dominance by the white minority. Thousands of blacks carrying banners surged into city streets to celebrate the legalisation of the ANC. Black activists, white businessmen and foreign governments praised what they called De Klerk's courage. The ANC said the speech "goes a long way to creating the climate conducive to negotiations," but did not indicate immediately how soon its exiled

leaders would take the opportunity to return home and begin above-ground political activity. It also called for Mandela's immediate release. In South Africa, anti-apartheid leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: "My immediate gut-level reaction is positive and I want to commend him (De Klerk) ... we seem to be on the way to a new South Africa." British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called the speech "a historic landmark" and said Mandela should be released immediately. The European Community (EC) also welcomed the promise to release Mandela. De Klerk, in the nationally broadcast address, gave no date for Mandela's release, saying a "further short passage of time" was necessary. He told the opening session of parliament he would lift bans or restrictions on more than 60 opposition groups; free most prisoners jailed for belonging to these groups; declare a moratorium on executions; and scrap

most of the restrictions imposed during more than three years of a state of emergency. These were the main steps demanded by Mandela and the ANC as preconditions for negotiations on a new constitution that would end the black majority's exclusion from national politics. Mandela has offered to mediate such talks. U.S. President George Bush said Friday he would review U.S. sanctions against South Africa with congress and called Pretoria's decision to free Mandela "quite positive." "I think when people move in the right direction, it is certainly time to review all policy," Bush said, speaking with reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Raleigh, North Carolina, for an appearance. However, Bush indicated that any easing of the sanctions would depend on De Klerk making good on his promise to free Mandela. "We want to see the policy initiatives go forward, the release of Mandela," he said.

## Abu Odeh: Arab summit should study Soviet influx

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh has called for convening a "well-planned and urgent" Arab summit conference to face the dangerous consequences of Soviet Jewish emigration to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "This summit must demand that Washington stop providing financial aid designed to help Israel absorb new immigrants and to open U.S. doors before Soviet Jews," Abu Odeh said in an interview with London-based paper Al Hayah published Thursday. Abu Odeh warned Soviet Jewish emigration had dangerous consequences for Jordan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip and stressed that Jordan and the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could do nothing about it but lodge protests. Noting that an Arab summit cannot pressure Moscow to stop the emigration, Abu Odeh called for providing the Palestinians in the occupied territories with necessary aid. He also expressed belief that Soviet Jewish emigration would strengthen Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's position and justify his refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories. The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Abu Odeh said, "will not exceed, in its best form, a meeting between Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Cairo." Abu Odeh also called for Arab dialogue with the new leaders in Eastern Europe.

## Hospital staff stage food strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Staff members of Al Badir Hospital Friday went on a hunger strike protesting the hospital's administration's failure to improve the quantity and quality of food served to them. Four people are currently served a quantity of food usually consumed by one person, according to hospital sources. They added that hospital staff had lodged letters of complaint. A number of nurses working at the hospital said that the reduction in the size of meals served to them was adopted in accordance with the new directives of the National Medical Institution.

## PLO leaders surprised by 'concession' report

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders said Friday they were surprised by reports that the organisation had agreed to let Egypt announce the membership of a Palestinian delegation for direct talks with Israel. "It's the first I've heard of it," Suleiman Nabaj, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, told Reuters in Tunis. Another executive committee member said he also had no knowledge of such an agreement. Diplomatic sources in Israel and Washington said the concession had suddenly raised hopes that the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the United States could meet next weekend to prepare for the Israeli-Palestinian meeting. A PLO spokesman in Tunis

said, "as far as I know, it's not true." A statement on the latest round of PLO leadership meetings in Tunis would reaffirm the PLO position that the organisation must name and announce the delegation, he added. The officials said the leadership was to hold another meeting in Tunis Friday night. According to sources quoted by Reuters in a dispatch from Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was waiting until receiving a green light from Israel's hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir before deciding to go ahead with the meeting. Shamir has convened a meeting of his Likud Party central committee for next Wednesday. He faces down right-wing rivals and

## League slams superpowers over Soviet Jewish exodus

TUNIS (Agencies) — An Arab League official said Friday the sudden increase in Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel looked like "a dirty deal" between the superpowers. "All the indications are there's a deal between the two great powers and the victims of the deal are the Palestinian people," Mohammad Al Farra, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general for Palestinian affairs, told a news conference. "There must be protest and a decisive stand (from the rest of the world) to stop this deal, this dirty deal, which seems to have been concluded between the two superpowers and which calls for regret and condemnation," he added. The league's secretary-general,

## King lauds press

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed confidence and pride in the Jordanian press and said journalists and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) should be allowed to exercise their full role in serving their country. At a meeting held at Al Nadwa Palace Thursday with JPA President Hashem Khreisat and the JPA board, King Hussein pledged support for journalists and said that everything should be done to enable the association to train journalists and contribute to a responsible media in Jordan. He said the JPA should acquire its full rights as provided by the JPA law and should have its own headquarters where local and foreign journalists can meet. King Hussein asked Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin, who was present at the meeting, to resolve all outstanding issues pertaining to the JPA within the next few weeks. King Hussein was briefed by Khreisat about the JPA's situation and the role which the media could play in the Jordanian society. The King later outlined the role which the media could play in the current phase in the Middle East.

He referred to the Palestine question and said that Jordan would remain committed to supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and to backing the PLO's efforts to bring about a just settlement for the Palestine problem. "The challenges that the Arab Nation and the Arab Order are now facing are immense and they require unity," King Hussein said. He said unity of Arab ranks was essential in the current Arab effort to arrive at a just settlement. "A united and strong Arab Nation can deal with the common threats and can thwart Israel's attempts to exploit world developments for its own benefit," the King said. He warned that

## King denounces killing of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has called for condolences to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on the death of two Saudi diplomats in Thailand. In his cable the King termed the incident as a "terrorist crime and a flagrant aggression against all values and principles." The King added that these "martyrs join others who fell in defence of their religion, homeland and nation."

All three victims of the daylight shootings in a quiet southern Bangkok suburb worked in the consular section which arranges recruitment of thousands of Thais in labouring and service industry jobs. The second secretary in the consular section, Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al Basri, was shot dead outside his apartment block as he returned from work. At almost exactly the same time consular section staff member Fahd Abdullah Al Bahli and driver Ahmad Abdullah Al Seif were shot as

they arrived at the gate of Fahd's house less than one kilometre away. Police said at least two gunmen were involved. They quoted witnesses as saying one of the gunmen appeared to be of Middle Eastern appearance. A Saudi Foreign Ministry statement Thursday said: "While expressing regret at this painful incident, the Saudi government... calls on the Thai government to shoulder its full responsibilities as soon as possible, uncover the criminal perpetrators and bring them to justice."

## House votes on budget today

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament votes Saturday on the main articles of the 1990 general budget after listening to the government's reply to demands made last week by 51 deputies and another seven expected to be delivered Saturday.

Deputies spent over 27 hours last Saturday and Sunday debating the draft budget and the House's Financial Committee's report and recommendations that the budget be reduced by about JD 15 million. Deputies have also presented the government with demands of their respective districts, mostly centering on administrative changes, land allocation problems, water, environment, road construction, health, education, youth and culture, refugee camps, electricity and energy, agriculture and communications as well as calls by Islamist deputies for more mosques and religious facilities.

asked the government to include the budgets of those departments which are financially and administratively independent. They argued that the status of these entities are "unconstitutional."

A proposal by the Financial Committee which observers say will not be approved by the House is JD 1.5 million cut in the JD 45 million allocation for the Public Security Department (PSD) and related organisations. Several senior PSD officials attended last Saturday's session and were seen lobbying deputies against the proposal, which, according to informed sources, will deprive the department of "much needed JD 1 million."

Last week's budget discussions were postponed till this Saturday to accommodate two days of high-level Syrian-Jordanian talks in Amman Monday and Tuesday. These talks came under the umbrella of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.

The government is also expected to present the House with the budgets of several public departments which were not included in the general budget such as Royal Jordanian, universities, the Public Transport Corporation, the Jordan Valley Authority, etc. The Financial Committee and most of the deputies have

## Omar elected JWA president

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — Poet and columnist Abdul Rahim Omar was Friday elected president of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) in the first elections of the association since the cancellation two months ago of a 1987 martial law order to dissolve the group for "political and security reasons."

The association's return was part of the national achievement which the Jordanian people attained in the democratisation era, Omar, who secured 87 votes out of 170, said in an interview after his election. Although Omar did not win the highest number of votes, he was elected president by the winning 11-member council after his bloc took a majority of six seats in the body. The banning of the association by an order issued by the military governor — then Prime Minister Zaid Rifai — in June 1987 is widely viewed as a prelude to the almost comprehensive clampdown

launched a year later on the press and writers. The government then accused the association of functioning as a front for radical activists and subversives while officials expressed resentment of what they described as underground leftist parties' control over the group. Some officials went as far as claiming that the association building, which was sealed by police in June 1987, was used

## Petra Bank staff threaten strike

By Sana Attiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Serious internal personnel problems have hit Petra Bank almost six months after the bank was taken over by the government and the bank's employees are threatening to strike if their demands were not met within a few weeks. In the largest meeting the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) has ever witnessed, more than 400 Petra Bank employees Thursday unanimously supported the principle of strike recommended by the head of the JBIEA, Haider

Rashid, if their demands were not met. Late last week, a petition signed by 435 Petra Bank employees was submitted to the prime minister, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), the Lower House of Parliament speaker and deputies and the general manager of Petra Bank. Although the petition demanded management reforms by the present committee, which was appointed by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) last August to replace the previous board of directors, the staff's intention to strike was only based on their demands for higher wages,

raises and better financial conditions. The signatories asked that employees be represented in the Bank's management committee. The employees own 14 per cent of the shares. The employees also called for their participation in efforts to bring to account those involved with corruption in the bank, "no matter who they are because we are more capable and experienced for this participation than the leadership of the management."

In addition, they demanded that the problems facing the

## U.S.-Arab trade official sees need for basic changes in Jordan strategy

By Mariam Shabin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — The Jordanian business community has to become a community of manufacturers and exporters if it intends to survive and become economically viable, according to the president of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Jean Abinader. Jordanians have to take advantage of the economic situation in the country at present to develop export markets in the U.S. and worldwide, Abinader, who was here on a

five-day visit, said before leaving Jordan for the Gulf Thursday. He said the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar had in fact made Jordan "more desirable" from a trade perspective. "Investments are likely to go much further and Jordan is at this point capable of competing with emerging manufacturing powers in the Far East and Eastern Europe," according to Abinader. "If Jordan does not manufacture now and export as soon as possible it may end up as a 'commercial afterthought' in

the business world," he said. Abinader pointed out that while many exporting countries were striving to get a greater share of the export quotas in the U.S. many Arab countries and Jordan in particular had been nowhere near using their quotas. The possibilities for Jordanian exports to the United States are many, Abinader said. He cited as examples: processed foods (vegetables and fruits), juices, consumer



## Sudan turns back relief plane for besieged town

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — Sudanese air traffic controllers denied landing permission Thursday to an aircraft ferrying emergency food to the beleaguered southern Sudan town of Juba.

"It seems the civil aviation people in Khartoum didn't get details of the aircraft," said Bob Koepf of the Lutheran Federation. "We got permission and everything."

Koepf said the Hercules C-130 returned to Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in the morning. It had a cargo of 15 tonnes of corn donated by the Italian government.

"We are at them (Sudanese) and hope to fly tomorrow," said Koepf, whose Nairobi office is responsible for the Lutheran's activities in southern Sudan.

While the C-130 was not allowed to land, a Boeing 707 leased by the Lutheran from Sudan Airways was permitted to deliver 30 tonnes of corn to Juba Thursday, Koepf said.

Koepf said his organisation has 2,500 tonnes of Italian-donated corn awaiting delivery to Juba and expects to receive additional food from other donors soon.

The Hercules was leased to increase reliability of food deliveries to Juba's estimated 300,000 residents, who recent evacuees say are prevented by armed soldiers from leaving the town.

Juba, on the west bank of the White Nile River, is the largest town in Equatoria province. It is

ringed with land mines planted by both the government troops and rebel southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The rebels have subjected Juba to sporadic artillery bombardment and have virtually cut all land routes to the town.

Only the Lutherans have delivered non-Sudanese government food supplies to Juba since Khartoum banned relief flights on Nov. 3 after an informal ceasefire with the rebels broke down.

Koepf said the Lutheran's had been unable to satisfactorily rely on Sudan Airways because "they have too much business and few aircraft."

On Wednesday, Koepf asked the rebels and government troops "to please respect and allow the Hercules and its crews free and safe passage" but the rebels remained non-committal.

Meanwhile the SPLA denied Friday reports in Khartoum's government-controlled newspapers that the army had broken their sieges of two southern towns.

"The allegation is an attempt by the Khartoum government to raise the army morale, that had been badly affected by the war in the south," Lam Akol, the num-

ber three commander of the SPLA, told Reuters.

Khartoum's government newspapers said Thursday the army had broken the SPLA's siege of Juba and Yei and life was returning to normal.

The rebels have shelled Juba three times in the past two weeks. Akol said the siege of the two towns was continuing "with ferocity," and it was only a matter of time before they fell.

He said anyone trying to fly a plane to the city's airport "will do so at his own risk."

Akol said Sudan's military junta last week lifted a ban it had imposed on flights to the South last November "in order to shuttle military supplies into Juba under the guise of relief."

Despite a government assurance that relief agencies could resume flights to both government and rebel-held towns, the civilian aviation authorities in Khartoum have not yet given any clearance for such flights.

Akol said the government was preventing civilians leaving Juba to use them as "a shield against SPLA attacks. This is grossly inhuman and must be roundly condemned."

Refugees told Reuters Wednesday the army was preventing thousands of frightened civilians from fleeing to rebel-held territory outside Juba to escape shelling, food shortages and the threat of rebel attack.

## Turks in Greek town are still scared — Turkish envoy

ANKARA (R) — Ethnic Turks in a northern Greek town fear to venture from their homes five days after 19 people were injured in clashes with Greeks, Turkey's ambassador to Greece said Friday.

Ambassador Gunduz Aktan was recalled for consultations as relations between the two countries slumped to their lowest since they nearly went to war over Aegean Sea rights in 1987.

"This is the lowest point in our relationship since March 1987. We no longer believe in the goodwill of the Greek government," a senior Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Aktan told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency: "The situation in Komotini has not settled fully and Turks there still fear to go out of their homes."

Foreign Ministry sources reported top-level meetings in Ankara to discuss Greece's request for the recall of Turkey's consul-general in Komotini, Kemal Gur.

Turkey has indicated that it could respond to his removal by demanding the recall of Greece's consul-general in Istanbul, Turkey's commercial centre.

Turkey said Monday's clashes in Komotini, near the Turkish frontier, in Monday's clashes, resulted from organised mass violence against the Turkish minority.

"We know the Greeks did not even detain those responsible for the incident, let alone make arrests," Aktan said.

Athens rejected both Turkish charges that brute force was used against ethnic Turks and Ankara's international appeal for protection of the human rights of ethnic Turks in Greece.

An estimated 120,000 Muslim ethnic Turks live in Greece, which described them as Greek Muslims. They are remnants of Ottoman rule which ended in the region in 1913.

Greece said Thursday it would insist on Gur's recall unless he changed the contents of a letter to Komotini authorities referring to ethnic Turks as "fellow countrymen."

"The word we use for 'kinsmen' in Greece proved to have a different meaning in Greek," Aktan said. "I think the Greeks are annoyed with our usage of the word."

Turkey and Greece have been at odds for decades over issues including Cyprus and rights in the Aegean Sea.

## Group threatens to blow up Atatürk Dam

NICOSIA (AP) — A hitherto unknown group calling itself the Kurdish Arab Front against Turkey threatened Friday to blow up the Atatürk Dam on the Euphrates River "as soon as possible."

The threat, which came in a typewritten statement in English and Arabic mailed to the Associated Press office from Nicosia, came three weeks after Turkey cut off much of the river's flow for one month to fill the dam's reservoir.

The date on the postmark was illegible and it was not clear when the statement was written.

"We must not let Turkey finish an odious project: the Atatürk Dam," the statement said. "We are ready to blow it up. Let's unite our efforts to destroy it as soon as possible."

"Dear Arab brothers, let's unite our efforts and prevent Turkey from tapping the Euphrates on Jan. 13, 1990. Let's address our protests to the OIC, the International Court at the Hague and the United Nations."

The OIC is the Islamic-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

A spokeswoman for the Kurdish Solidarity Committee of the

Cyprus House of Representatives, which hosted two Kurdish activists in Cyprus earlier this week, said she had never heard of the group.

The two, Hassan Aktin and Omer Hoja of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party of Turkey, known as the PKK, had denounced alleged human rights abuses in Turkey and appealed to the United States for assistance.

The U.S. State Department protested their presence in Cyprus, calling the PKK "terrorists." The Cyprus government said it rejected the protest.

## Shamir-Sharon power struggle heats up

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, whose power struggle threatens Middle East peace talks, have stepped up their feud as a showdown draws near.

Adding to the disarray, the two have issued different invitations to a crucial Likud Party central committee meeting Wednesday to set positions on proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

Shamir has staked his political career on the vote while Sharon, the cabinet's leading hawk, hopes the meeting will boost his ambitions to become prime minister.

"Shamir will want a clear vote and then he will be able to do whatever he wants," an official close to the prime minister said.

Unlike Shamir's invitation, the agenda issued by the Sharon camp omits the prime minister's opening address on government

and party policy to the 2,000-member central committee.

Shamir has said he will resign if he does not get the vote of confidence he is seeking on his positions.

He has come under intense pressure from his Labour coalition partners and the United States to talk to Palestinians.

Labour politicians are threatening to bring down the coalition if Sharon succeeds in persuading the central committee to impose tough conditions for dialogue with Palestinians.

Sharon met party allies Thursday to discuss proposals that would wreck compromises hammered out by Egypt and the United States.

Sharon, who has the backing of two other senior Likud ministers, is expected to demand constraints such as barring Palestinians from East Jerusalem or deportees from

participating in talks.

Defying Arab and international opinion, the hawks are also expected to call for increased Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories.

Shamir, himself a rightwinger, has already been widely condemned for his remarks that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate Soviet Jewish immigration.

In the countdown to the Wednesday meeting, the Shamir and Sharon camps have begun trading insults. Sharon has accused Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, a Shamir confidante, of having evaded military service.

Sharon, who instigated the army's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has also hit out at Israel's only Arab friend, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in his attempt to appeal to grassroots Likud opinion. This week he labelled Mubarak a dictator.

## Khartoum banker shops for bread in Beirut

KHARTOUM — When Ismat Uzri wants to buy a few groceries, he takes a plane to Beirut.

"Even during the worst of the shelling, you could get more in the stores than you can get here," says the general manager of the National Bank of Sudan. Uzri isn't after anything fancy. "I buy a lot of bread," he says. "We freeze it, then I have something to give to my employees when the shortages come."

Sudan has long lived with shortages. But since last June's military coup, the beleaguered African nation has been so beset by scarcities that business has mostly shut down. In Khartoum's sprawling industrial district, the only bustle is provided by a herd of goats, foraging amid piles of refuse. Most of the factories are closed, or running at a fraction of capacity.

"Either the infrastructure has

broken down or the raw materials aren't available," complains Satti Hakim Ali, deputy general manager of Hagar Cigarette and Tobacco Factory Ltd., one of the few businesses still in partial operation. Before civil war broke out in Sudan's south, Hagar cigarettes were made mostly of home grown tobacco.

Now, farmers in the war-torn region can't sow their fields, so Hagar needs to import everything. But the new government has brought in stringent foreign exchange controls, and won't give the company sufficient currency to meet its needs. The government earns a 200 per cent tax on the sale of Hagar's cigarettes; "so we may be a bit luckier than other people," says Ali. At least the factory is producing at 40 per cent capacity.

— The Wall Street Journal.

## Khomeini's son urges hostility against U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's son called for continued hostility against America as thousands of Iranians gathered Thursday at Khomeini's tomb to mark the 11th anniversary of his return from exile, Tehran Radio reported.

In the first such anniversary since Khomeini's death on June 3, Ahmad Khomeini declared that his father, known as the imam, "had constantly" defied "global arrogance," meaning the United States and its allies.

"We must always remain on the imam's path," he said in the ceremony launching 10 days of celebrations for the triumph of Khomeini's Islamic Revolution.

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- Children under 12 half price.
- Closed Sundays.

Al Walima restaurant is situated in Amman Marriott Hotel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

773111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Korea  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
17:20 ..... Educational programme  
18:00 ..... News summary  
18:05 ..... Message from Iraq  
18:25 ..... A play by Shakespeare  
19:10 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
22:40 ..... Consumer's Guide  
22:25 ..... Local programme  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Variety programme  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Documentary  
19:20 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Natural Phenomena  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:20 ..... Annie McChine  
21:00 ..... With the Camera  
21:40 ..... Spotlight  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "White Manna"

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:06 ..... Fajr

### CHURCHES

06:25 ..... (Sunrise) Dawn  
11:40 ..... Dhuhr  
14:00 ..... 'Asr  
17:15 ..... Maghrib  
18:35 ..... 'Isha

#### St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish,

Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440

De la Sothe Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623441

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

772611

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel.

682326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

811265

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

### Meteorology

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with expected scattered showers and winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, which will be southerly moderate and sea rough.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp.  
11:40 ..... 4 / 11  
14:00 ..... 10 / 20  
17:15 ..... 3 / 12  
18:35 ..... 9 / 18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Amman 19, Humidity readings: Amman 85 per cent, Amman 40 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul ..... 896140

Dr. Jamil Mawad ..... 770946

Dr. Muneir Qasbi ..... 898101

Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul ..... 812148

Flow pharmacy ..... 661912

Flow pharmacy ..... 776336

Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637035

Nairobi pharmacy ..... 626772

Al Sela pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

St. Joseph's pharmacy ..... 637660

St. Joseph's pharmacy ..... 985417

St. Joseph's pharmacy ..... 985417

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### Jordan Television

773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 681010

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power ..... 63681

Company ..... 641646

RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 06-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hammam Medical Centre ..... 813813/22

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816

Al-Bashir, J. Amn ..... 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642412

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Shamsi Hospital ..... 661714

Shamsi Hospital ..... 661714

University Hospital ..... 642412

Al-Muhammar Hospital ..... 667279

The Islamic, Amman ..... 661273

Al-Ami, Amman ..... 641646

Al-Ami, Amman ..... 641646

Al-Ami, Amman ..... 641646

Al-Ami, Amman ..... 641646

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

08:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

09:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)

10:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)

11:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

12:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

13:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

14:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

15:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

16:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

17:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

18:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

19:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

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24:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

25:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

26:00 ..... Amman (RJ)

27:00 ..... Amman (RJ)



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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

## Solution from within

THE ONGOING confrontation in Lebanon between General Michel Aoun's forces and Samir Geagea's militia is a grim reminder that the Lebanese conflict is far from being over or that its settlement is imminent. The savage fighting that erupted between the two Christian forces came on the heels of the bitter fighting between Amal and Hizbollah militias. The total picture emerging from all these parallel internecine armed conflicts portray a Lebanese story where normalcy has become one of bloodletting and destruction. With all Arab and foreign efforts to stop the death and destruction in Lebanon have been exhausted without avail, the question that remains is what else can be done to salvage the Lebanese from themselves.

The Arab League and its Higher Committee on Lebanon have done their utmost to bring back harmony and understanding among the fighting Lebanese factions. An Arab summit is therefore not likely to succeed where all past Arab efforts have failed. Short of armed intervention, which is obviously not in the cards, additional Arab efforts cannot be expected to offer a decisive solution to the ongoing fighting in Lebanon. Likewise all international efforts have failed to deliver the kind of peace that Lebanon has yearned for over the past 15 years. The only remaining way to break the deadlock and erase the despair in the Arab World and elsewhere must come from the Lebanese people themselves. The psychology of war that permeates their national psyche needs to be redressed and replaced with another spirit and attitude that may have the seeds for salvation. For this purpose, the warlords in Lebanon must be bypassed and the Lebanese people, whatever their faith or ideologies, must take their destiny into their own hands. This goal can be realised through direct contacts and communications between the various factions that are now themselves fueling the continuing war with their own blood and lives. Another step in that direction can take the form of a truly democratic elections in the country under an Arab or international supervision to yield a national reconciliation government. Yet, whatever the route that the Lebanese people would want to take, the ultimate solution must come from within. There is a limit to what others can do for the Lebanese and unless they choose to help themselves there is not much that the outside world can do for them.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday welcomed a decision by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to send out ministers to various governorates in order to try to discover problems and find solutions for them. The paper said that is part of the government's mission to which it dedicated itself upon its inception and in accordance with royal directives. But it warned that citizens meeting with the ministers should not seize the opportunity to burden the government with intolerable demands. The paper said that while the Jordanian people welcome such a move which is a part of the going march towards democracy, it should be noted that Jordan has limited means especially at present when the country is trying to pay back debts and at the same time carry out development projects. There is no doubt that the government will try to do all it can to solve problems, but one should not expect miracles overnight, said the paper. What is required at the moment, the paper added, is full cooperation on the part of citizens and various organisations so that common aspirations can be fulfilled.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily columnist Fakhr Kassar says that the Ministry of Supply seems to have done nothing today to solve the problem of fresh meat shortage in the country. The writer notes that citizens have been used to eating imported Romanian fresh meat which is no more available in Jordan for a number of reasons. But he says the citizens of this country cannot buy locally produced meat either because of its soaring prices, selling most often at JD 4 a kilo. Furthermore, Kassar says, the imported frozen meat does not meet the taste of the people and can by no means serve as a substitute for imported fresh meat. The ideal thing, says the writer, is to allow merchants to import live sheep to be slaughtered in Jordan provided the government facilitate this process by refraining from charging import fees and duty on this kind of meat which could be sold at prices close to the Romanian meat. Such a policy, he says, would no doubt solve the meat shortage problem and help local butchers to resume their business and earn their livelihoods.

Al Dustour daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's pledge Thursday to provide all possible support for the Jordan Press Association, and said that the King is aware of the critical stage which the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular are going through; and he appreciates the role of the press in spreading public awareness. The paper said that King Hussein linked the support for the press with his call on journalists to shoulder their responsibility towards their nation at this crucial stage. One can only hear reports about Israel's atrocities in the occupied territories and its drive to absorb an influx of Jewish immigrants to be settled on Arab land, to realise the dangerous situation the Arab Nation is now facing, said the paper. For this reason, the paper added, Jordan through its media and all its power is trying to unify Arab ranks in the face of the common threat, and to provide all possible support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom.

### View from Amman

# Democracy and the National Charter

By Kameel Abu Jaber

DEMOCRACY: That magic word loaded with explosive connotations and nuances: One of the most beautiful words in the dictionary of man in any culture, it was best articulated by the ancient Greeks. The meaning they gave it then remains the most valid, indeed the most explosive: it simply means peoples' (demo) rule (cracy). Nothing more and nothing less. As simple and direct as the concept may be it rests on a number of assumptions regarding man; the average man, his abilities and his relationships with the polity in which he resides.

Basically it has an optimistic view of men, all men. All men are created equal before God and all men can, if given the chance and the proper circumstances not only participate in the political process but assume responsibility, even the highest responsibility of governance as well. This dignified and exalted status given to every human being implies not only that his body but his mind and opinions be respected as well. He must be allowed to move freely; to associate freely and be guaranteed his basic rights within the framework of a constitutionally limited government. A government of institutions not men, laws not wills, election not selection and reason not intuition.

But democratic government is not only right and privilege alone, but responsibility as well. The citizen is free to act within the bounds of reason, law, ethics and etiquette so that his freedom is not licence but privilege to be cherished and nurtured.

Perhaps that lay behind King Hussein's words when he first mentioned the possibility of the passage of a National Charter on

May 10, 1989; a charter to represent a "national code of conduct" building upon and adding to the open and lenient atmosphere that has always distinguished Jordan from most other Arab regimes.

At the time of our King's words we were, as we still are, undergoing three major crises at the same time. The first which we share with all other Arab states is an ideological one concerning the very ideological nature of the regime. Is it an Islamic, nationalist, traditional, socialist, leftist or simply an authoritarian regime? The question, however important, may never be fully answered. Maybe it is wise never to answer it but to develop with time and circumstance adapting ideology to life rather than the other way around. In passing we should note the failure of Communism to fashion all life in accordance with ideology resulting in its present breakdown over the past few months.

The second crisis is a strictly Jordanian one coming in the wake of the July 31, 1988 disengagement from the West Bank. Though the disengagement was a legal and administrative one, it left a trail of unanswered questions regarding not only the Palestinian factor in Jordan's life, but the very role of Jordan in the entire Palestine question; surely the disengagement decided and yet it did not decide. The grey areas predominate the black and white, with ambiguity, and for the time being, predominating all else.

The third crisis, an economic one is also a purely Jordanian one. But then again is it purely Jordanian or does it have

implications for those around? How is it that Jordan is undergoing such a severe crisis while a "top United Arab Emirates (UAE) investment official... estimated that Arab investments abroad stand at about \$400 billion" (JORDAN TIMES January 27, 1990, P. 6).

These three crises form the backdrop of the call for the National Charter, and set the stage for the Jordanian parliamentary elections of November 8, 1989. It was however, not from a sense of failure that both emanated but the other way around. For Jordan was always distinguished by the promise of liberalisation it maintained. Often it was made accountable against that promise.

The National Charter should be a complement, not replace the constitution. It should be an ideological, political, economic statement to rally people and not a rigid manifesto that builds walls around them. It should allow for free opinion and free association mindful of the failure of the National Union of the 1970s and of the presently falling Iron and Bamboo curtains.

The regime of Jordan is a seasoned well-led centrist one that has nothing to fear from its people. It can dialogue with them thus deepening their sense of loyalty and belonging and should have the confidence, which it already displayed with the elections and their aftermath, to expand its bases of legitimacy. We emerged into the twentieth century a bewildered and disoriented people. Only democracy, through dialogue and responsible debate can give us direction and finally allow the Head to Lie Easy.

## Soviet Jewish influx heightens tension in Middle East

By Paul Taylor  
Reuters

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — A mass influx of Soviet Jews to Israel has abruptly changed the mood of the Middle East, giving Israelis a new self-confidence and spreading alarm among Palestinians and Arab states.

The prospect of 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews moving to Israel this year and between 250,000 and 750,000 over the next five years is forcing fundamental rethinking about the demographic and political balance in the region.

The reversal is stark after two years in which Israel was on the defensive, beset by a Palestinian uprising its military power could

not crush and losing political support in the West.

"The impact of Soviet immigration cannot be overestimated in terms of Arab perceptions of Israel," said Asher Susser, head of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies.

Arab commentators and newspapers are suddenly full of gloomy prognosis about the impact of Soviet Jewish immigration. There is talk of an Arab summit on the issue.

"The world is celebrating the new freedoms in Eastern Europe and paying little attention to what is happening in the Middle East," a Nicotia-based PLO official said. "They are celebrating at our

expense," he added.

For years, many Arabs had perceived Israel to be in slow decline, its pioneering spirit almost gone and Jewish emigration outpacing immigration.

They saw the PLO's decision in November 1988 to recognise Israel as acknowledgement that Palestinians could live in peace with an Israel no longer bent on expansion.

Soviet immigration has changed everything. "Israel has scored several rounds recently," said the Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh on Jan. 30. "Arab weakness is responsible."

Susser said Arabs, who regarded the Israelis as latter-day Crusaders, an alien people des-

igned to disappear from the Middle East, were realising the tide of history was not on their side. This might in time foster a new realism, he said.

"If the future is not on their side, they may have more of an interest in accommodation with Israel," Susser said.

Few in the Arab World would agree that the changes are bringing peace nearer. Instead there are fears that Israel's new ebullience will aggravate age-old enmities.

"It shows that we may have been wrong in thinking that an Arab-Israeli peace was possible," the PLO official said.

Arab governments and the

PLO have protested to the Kremlin, seizing on a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that a "big Israel," including the occupied territories, was needed to settle Soviet Jews.

In a memorandum to Western governments, Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories said the influx of immigrants would reverse the demographic status quo and be "an additional step in the process of the dispossession of the Palestinians."

Many Palestinians say they feel dejected as their uprising is elbowed out of the headlines by the influx of Soviet Jews.

At present there are 3.7 million Jews and 650,000 Arabs inside Israel's pre-1967 borders and 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Given the higher Arab birth-rate, demographers had forecast that the number of Arabs under Israeli rule would outstrip the number of Jews early in the next century.

The Soviet Union warned Israel on Jan. 29 against settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

It has also tried to assuage Arab anger by holding up implementation of an agreement for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, which would speed emigration.

But the Kremlin has signalled to Arab states there will be no

fundamental change in its emigration policy.

Soviet ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk told the Jordan Times that Moscow could do little to stop Soviet Jews coming to Israel.

"The Soviets are trying to find symbolic and unimportant ways to compensate the Arabs," said professor Galla Golan of the Hebrew University.

Israel says Shamir's speech was deliberately misinterpreted and there is no policy of directing Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

The immigration ministry said only 0.5 per cent of new immigrants moved there last year. A few hundred have settled in the West Bank in recent months and virtually none in Gaza.

"It is the Arabs who have now created the hysteria" and are pressuring the Russians on the question of Jewish immigration. This is an artificial storm which will pass very soon," Shamir said Jan. 29.

Privately, senior Israeli diplomats said his "big Israel" remark, "made to a hardline domestic political audience, was a blunder that harmed Israel's interests."

Western diplomats said it reflected a new assertiveness demonstrated by an increasing Israeli reluctance to make any concessions on Middle East peace talks.

## King lauds press

(Continued from page 1)

Israel was striving to gain more Arab land, evict Palestinians from their homeland and settle new Jewish immigrants to their place.

The meeting, which was followed by a lunch hosted by the King, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

## Trade official sees need

(Continued from page 1)

appliances, furnishings, electronic items, finished leather goods and other finished garments.

He said although he believed Jordanian products could be marketed in the U.S. there was a certain problem which needed to be resolved. "Jordanian businessmen need to increase the quality of information available to eventual importers and investors," he said.

He said that Jordan's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was a point of attraction for those who wanted to invest in Jordan. "Jordan has the personnel and the infrastructure and through the ACC it has the markets," he said.

Abinader said he welcomed the increasing emphasis on the private sector in Jordan, adding that government policies should encourage and not hinder the output of the country's private sector. He added that U.S. trade facilitations for Jordan and the general system of preference (GSP) were "greatly under-utilised."

Jordanians seem to have "forgotten about" the \$60 million recurring line of credit available to them from the U.S., he said.

Pointing out that Jordan had once again become interesting to U.S. investors, Abinader said: "The investment will now get further here than ever before. You have high quality labour, you have a proven business preference for American products, and you don't have a language barrier."

Abinader believes that Jordanians planning to manufacture and export need to do careful market studies and create research and data infrastructure that will help future

manufacturers and industrialists in the country. "Jordanian business people have to define their goals and markets more clearly."

The U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce was founded in New York in 1967. Today it has offices in Chicago, San Francisco, Houston and Washington, D.C., where it is currently based. The chamber's main function is to certify commercial documents and to promote trade and facilitate governmental trade relations.

The chamber has concluded agreements with both state and federal government agencies in the U.S. to help institutionalise Arab-U.S. trade relations. The chamber has over 1,000 members in the U.S.

Abinader said that a possible "trade-triangle" of the future could be one which combined Gulf funds, U.S. technology and Jordan's human and manufacturing resources. "Other than that there are also possibilities of joint venture among the U.S., Canada and Jordan. Actually if you have the right mentality then the possibilities are endless," he said.

During his visit here, Abinader held talks with government officials and businessmen as well as those involved in private enterprise development programmes.

"I invite Jordanians to participate in the international trade show to be held in Washington, D.C. from April 20-25," he said before continuing his eight-country tour of the region.

"Business means taking chances, and as soon as Jordanian business people accept that, there sooner they are likely to take world markets by storm," Abinader concluded.

## Bank staff threaten strike if demands not met

(Continued from page 1)

bank be properly and scientifically identified so that the right solutions are implemented, "rather than wasting time and stalling the development of the work."

They asked that the bank work towards regaining its credibility with its clients because, the petition said, a large portion of the bank's deposits was lost in the last few months. They also demanded that the CBI gradually reduce its support for the bank so that the bank can eventually repay its debts.

Only one item in the petition asked for "higher and fair wages and raises." According to the employees, they have not received raises in five years.

CBI Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi and Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh would not comment on the petition or the threat to strike by the Petra Bank employees.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Friday, Petra Bank general manager Bassam Atari said there was no need for a strike.

"We have formulated committees from within the bank to study the conditions of the employees. The financial results should be concluded

within a week. I agree that the wages and conditions of the employees are just, and we are working on improving the situation," Atari said.

Atari expressed regret that the first petition signed by the employees was submitted to the government rather than to the management. According to Atari, the employees want to fight against the policy of the management rather than demanding improved conditions. He referred to the fact that only one item of the petition asked for involved financial demands.

Since the appointed management took over in August, 10 employees have been sacked and 50 have resigned, according to a personnel officer of the bank. About 680 are currently employed by the bank, which has many branches in Jordan.

One employee who has sacked a few months ago told the Jordan Times that article 17 of the Labour Law was used against all those who were fired. This article entitles the management to sack any employee without warning and without compensation if the person is accused of a criminal activity such as theft or embezzlement or corruption.

According to the fired em-

ployee, who preferred to remain anonymous, those dismissed were not accused of any crime and were not given any reason for their dismissal.

Atari said there were two categories of people who were sacked: "those who signed illegal papers while the previous management was in power and did not reveal the illegality of the matter at the time, and those who were in high positions in the old management."

He did not elaborate. According to several employees, some of whom are heads of departments and branches, the new management was supposed to have solved the bank's problems and improved the work of the bank. Apparently, one of them told the Jordan Times, "only time has been wasted and nothing substantial has been achieved to improve and press ahead with the work of the bank."

"On the contrary," he said, "the current management has been wasting time with unnecessary bureaucracy that has made us lose clients. Instead of focusing on our clients and international business, the concentration is on paperwork and reports for the management."

Another employee said that

another important element which made the bank lose clients was the "bad publicity against the bank, initiated by our management and delivered by officials through the media."

One of the employees attending Thursday's meeting demanded that "the weekly television series defaming our bank must stop."

"It's as if we were the ones responsible for the economic decline of the country," he said. "If the government wants to bring to justice the person who was involved in the corruption of the bank, it knows the person, his name and address. Bring him to justice. Why do we have to suffer for someone else's mismanagement?" he asked as the crowd cheered him.

Many of the employees at the meeting expressed frustration over the way the current management is running the bank. Some described it as being the only institution in Jordan where democracy has not reached.

According to Amman Deputy Mansour Murad, who worked at the bank for a short period and has close friends employed there, "Petra Bank employees are terrorised by their management."







# U.S. plan to mobilise IMF gold reserves run into stiff opposition

LONDON (Agencies) — A radical U.S. scheme to reduce the debt arrears of Third World nations which could involve selling gold they have paid to the IMF into initial scepticism from Washington's Western partners Thursday.

Monetary officials in several European financial centres said the U.S. Treasury scheme posed a series of philosophical and practical problems and did not seem to offer a long term solution to run in overdue loan repayments.

And they warned it could further complicate deadlocked negotiations on strengthening the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a move

managing director Michel Camdessus says is essential to tackle the \$1.3 trillion debt crisis.

The U.S. scheme could — under one possible option — lead to the sale of just over three million ounces of the 103 million ounces paid to the IMF as part of member nations subscriptions.

That prospect sent jitters through international gold markets Wednesday and prices at one point dropped by \$6 an ounce.

But prices steadied in Europe Thursday at around \$416 an ounce and it remains far from clear whether any gold will in fact be sold.

"It is literally a proposal and it seems unlikely it will win approval," said Ted Arnold, metals specialist at brokers Merrill Lynch.

"The impact on the gold market could be zero."

Monetary officials said Italy, West Germany and Britain had doubts about the scheme and were emphasising there could be other ways to bring debtor nations back into line — 11 now have arrears to the fund totalling more than \$3.7 billion.

Just how the U.S. plan would work is not yet clear, but monetary officials say the starting point is the possibility of realising the difference between the nominal value of gold in the IMF's books — 35 Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's currency, per ounce or about \$46 — and the market value of around \$416.

The fund would therefore take the gold paid in by a debtor nation with serious arrears and, through open sales or private swaps with central banks, use the cash generated — about \$370 an ounce — to offset outstanding debt obligations.

The debtor nation would lose its voting power in the fund, which is determined by the size of its subscription, but monetary officials said it might have the option of seeking new loans at a

later date from industrial countries to repay arrears in a conventional way and restore its IMF credentials.

The scheme was discussed by the IMF's executive board in Washington Wednesday and looks likely to complicate the talks on quotas, which dictate how much a country can borrow.

These talks have long been bogged down in a dispute over how to increase Japan's spot in the fund's ranking.

The proposal could hit a wide range of countries which have fallen behind in the repayments of credits to the fund, including Peru, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Vietnam and Sudan.

Peru made a token repayment of \$42.3 million of arrears last December but still owes around \$750 million.

Monetary officials said Washington was frustrated at the failure to make a dent in arrears through other schemes such as arranging "support groups" of nations to raise new credits.

As a result, U.S. negotiators have linked their agreement on a rise in the IMF's basic resources or quotas to agreement on a tough new initiative to tackle the arrears problems.

Without the backing of major industrial nations, which have a large share of fund voting power, the plan will fail to meet the 85 per cent approval needed from 152 member nations.

The problems are both philosophical and practical:

— Countries with serious arrears to the IMF are in any case ineligible for new borrowings so they have little to lose. Other developing nations which have not slid into arrears and will not be allowed to realise the market value of their gold may well argue they are being penalised for sticking to the rules.

— Camdessus is thought to be against using gold reserves, long regarded as inviolable. Some officials argue the plan is no lasting solution to the arrears problem and begs the question whether the fund would have to sell gold again in a few years.

— The U.S. scheme envisages mobilising the profits from about three million ounces of gold paid into the IMF's reserves by those developing countries in arrears. But at current prices that would realise only a little over \$1.1 billion or about a quarter of the total arrears to the fund.

— There are fears the gold could not be sold or swapped to central banks without disrupting the gold market. The West German finance ministry said Wednesday it had begun a review with the Bundesbank of the con-

sequences of gold sales.

One of the biggest worries is that sales would depress the international gold price and with it the value of central banks' foreign reserves where the metal traditionally plays a big role.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady Thursday said he was satisfied with the achievements of the United States' much-criticised Third World debt strategy.

Brady said that the first agreement, with Mexico, would be signed Sunday and he predicted that another agreement would be completed by the middle of the month with the Philippines.

He said that an agreement with Costa Rica was expected before the end of March and the debt-reduction packages could be reached with two of the Third World's largest debtors, Venezuela and Brazil, this year.

"I am very pleased with the progress that we have made in the attempts to alleviate Third World debt," Brady said in answer to a question before the Senate Budget Committee. "I think a pattern is beginning to emerge whereby we can deal with these problems."

The administration's debt strategy, often referred to as the Brady Plan, was unveiled in March 1989. It had an initial goal of cutting the debt of 39 countries to commercial banks by 20 per cent.

The plan envisioned using incentives supplied by the IMF and the World Bank to entice commercial banks to voluntarily forgive a portion of their old debt in exchange for guarantees that the reduced debt would be repaid.

Critics, however, said the deal with Mexico, considered a test case for the plan, produced debt relief far below what had been hoped and that other countries were even further from reaching agreements with commercial banks.

But Brady said the debt plan, while setting "enormous goals," had been working well in producing a variety of debt reduction packages that will soon be signed.

"Starting from scratch this past year, we now have some of the machinery down, working rather smoothly so that we don't have to reinvent the wheel every time we do one of these transactions," he said.

On another topic, Brady acknowledged that the administration's proposal to cut the tax on corporate profits envisioned that the measure would be enacted by March 1, a goal that Senate Budget Committee Chairman James Sasser called totally unrealistic.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Aden to become free trade zone

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — South Yemen intends to turn Aden into a free-zone port to boost trade, its Communications Minister Saleh Abdullah Muthana was quoted as saying Thursday. Muthana, in an interview with the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad, said the aim was "to revive Aden's economy and trade activities and its strategic location." The Red Sea port of Aden was a booming facility in the time of the British occupation which ended in 1967. South Yemen then turned socialist, and generally restricted its dealings with the Soviet Union and other communist nations. The country has however recently begun opening up to the West and is pledged to unity within the year with the pro-Western neighbours in North Yemen. Muthana said that his ministry had already launched projects to develop the port and a number of Arab and European companies sought to benefit from its services. "The port authority in Aden has received more than 20 applications from Arab, Italian, British and German businessmen in this respect," the minister said.

### Koor, banks reach agreement

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign and domestic creditors of Israel's biggest industrial concern, Koor Industries, reached a last-minute comprehensive early Friday to write off \$255 million of debts, a finance ministry official said. The compromise was announced after three days of intensive negotiations on the conglomerate's fate. "I think we finished with the foreign banks. I suppose they will get approval from their management," said Finance Minister Shimon Peres. Under the compromise, foreign banks will write off \$75 million of the \$250 million owed to them, a finance ministry official said. Israeli banks agreed to write off \$180 million of the \$800 million they put up. The deal must be ratified by the foreign banks. The Koor board has extended a complete cessation of interest and principal payments pending a comprehensive solution, a senior company official said Tuesday. This followed the failure to meet Wednesday's deadline for \$6 million in interest payments.

### NYSE chief to retire this year

NEW YORK (R) — New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Chairman John Phelan, the man who led Wall Street through its worst crash in history, said Thursday he would leave his post at the helm of the nation's largest stock exchange at the end of the year. The NYSE said it regretfully accepted Phelan's plans to retire and had appointed a committee to find a successor. It is expected to make its recommendations this autumn. Phelan, who will turn 60 next year, is perhaps best remembered for his calm and determined leadership during the October 1987 stock market crash when the world's financial markets appeared on the brink of collapse. "It's the nearest thing to a meltdown that I ever want see," said Phelan after the Oct. 19 crash, in a often-repeated quote that succinctly characterised the feelings of the day. "John Phelan will be best remembered for the strong, steady leadership he has provided for the entire securities industry during one of the most turbulent periods in its history," said William Schreyer, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch and Company.

### Lawson joins Barclays Bank

LONDON (R) — Nigel Lawson, who resigned as Britain's finance minister last October, is joining Barclays PLC as a non-executive director, the British banking group has said. The former chancellor of the exchequer, who quit Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet after a row over who had control of economic policy, will spend two days a week on business connected with the parent company and its Barclays Bank PLC subsidiary. "Lawson's distinguished record at the helm of economic and financial policy in the U.K. make him a noteworthy addition to our board," Barclays chairman Sir John Quinlan said. Lawson, who celebrates his 58th birthday next month, was a financial journalist before being elected to parliament in 1974. He was made energy secretary in 1981 and became chancellor of the exchequer in 1988. He remains a member of parliament for the ruling Conservative Party. Barclays said Lawson would also have an advisory role within the group with particular reference to the brokerage division, Barclays De Zoete Wedd.

## U.N. agencies fear Third World could pay for East Europe aid

ROME (R) — The United Nations' biggest food agencies fear the West's scramble to nourish reformist Eastern Europe with millions of dollars in aid will worsen the plight of thousands of people facing famine in the Third World.

Pope John Paul, starting a tour of Africa's poverty-stricken Sahel region, said last week that rich countries "cannot abandon their common and current responsibility for the south" to help Eastern Europe.

His appeal echoed the worries of the United Nations' food agencies. "It's a great worry. We've only got one pie, a lot more people want a slice of it — and it's not getting any bigger," said Paul Mitchell, spokesman for the Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP), which handles nearly one quarter of the world's food aid.

The upheavals in the East Bloc have prompted a huge Western support programme, including negotiations to set up a special development bank for the region and deliveries of emergency food aid coordinated by the European Community (EC).

The WFP says Italy has slashed its own contributions to the agency by two thirds for 1990, from \$28 to \$8 million, and put that into aid to Eastern Europe.

Rome has denied that the Third World will suffer as a result of its generosity to Eastern Europe but Italian Treasury Minister Guido Carli has himself questioned where the extra money will come from.

Japan, rivaling the United States as a leading donor nation, last month pledged a package of aid and credits to Poland and Hungary worth \$1.8 billion.

"Where's the morality? how can Japan find millions of dollars overnight to pump into Eastern Europe? asked one senior aid agency official who declined to be named.

"Obviously those countries need help, but nobody is dying of hunger in Eastern Europe. That money could have saved lives in

the Third World months ago," he added.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the U.N.'s largest agency, recently warned against helping Eastern Europe "at the expense of the developing countries, where the need is still great."

Director-General Edouard Saouma appealed for massive international help to combat famine in Ethiopia.

"The world cannot allow a repetition of the disastrous famine that struck Ethiopia just five years ago," he said.

Relief workers question the sending of emergency food aid to Eastern Europe. The EC has already approved more than \$50 million in food and medical aid to Romania.

"Take Romania, Poland, Hungary — their daily caloric supply per head is greater than or equal to the supply in many Community countries," said one senior WFP official.

"For the West, it's more sexy to send money to the East Bloc than to the South. Public opinion loves it. And the Community sees it as a chance to take former communist countries under its wing," he added.

Scandinavian countries, the most generous donors to developing nations, and the Community, have pledged that help for Eastern Europe will be additional to Third World aid.

"The EC... is determined to respond to the needs of East European countries, but not at the expense of other areas. There is no contradiction, or competition between the two objectives," EC spokesman Nico Wouter said.

The U.S. administration, among the biggest donors to Eastern Europe so far, said last month it wanted more flexibility in distributing billions of dollars in foreign aid so that it could give more money to the region.

President George Bush's team has not yet laid out the finer details of the 1991 foreign aid budget, which calls for \$300 million in new aid for Eastern Europe.

## Iran ready to launch 5-year plan

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said his government can launch reconstruction now parliament has given final approval to part of his \$112 billion five-year plan, Tehran television reported Thursday.

"This will be considered an important day in the history of our revolution," he said in an interview recorded in Tehran Wednesday night.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, has been fighting for weeks to get his five-year plan past radicals who dominate the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament.

They oppose Rafsanjani's efforts to mend ties with the West to end Iran's isolation and attract badly needed foreign investment and technology.

The radicals, led by former interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, believe foreign investment and heightened contact with the West will pollute the revolutionary ideals dictated by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mohtashemi, who was elected to parliament in December after being dumped from government by Rafsanjani, said earlier this month that he opposed any direct foreign investment in Iran.

The plan was passed by the Majlis after Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned parliament not to obstruct Rafsanjani in the national interest.

But the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, reported last week that the 12-member Council of Guardians, which screens legislation to ensure it does not violate the tenets of Islam, sent part of the plan back to parliament for amendment.

It is still not clear which part of the plan the Council of Guardians approved and whether parliament has amended those parts the council rejected.

Although Rafsanjani's government had been seeking the full approval of the plan before launching it, his statements appeared to indicate he will start moving on the plan now rather than wait for full approval by the Council of Guardians.

Rafsanjani served warning on radicals who occupy many levels in the government bureaucracy: "Those who will perform their duties in implementing this plan will be encouraged, and those who hesitate will be questioned."

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, February 1, 1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	115.6	116.8
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	455.8	460.4
Pound Sterling	1105.6	1116.7	Dutch guilder	346.3	351.8
Deutschemark	392.6	396.5	Swedish crown	107.5	108.6
Swiss franc	440.0	444.4	Italian Lira (for 100)	52.9	53.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	186.9	188.8

### Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Jan. 27-31	Jan. 20-24
Daily average	JD 2,415,935	JD 3,275,999
Total volume	JD 12,079,677	JD 16,379,997
Total shares	4,961,060	8,990,278
No. of contracts	5,307	7,299

#### Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 5,375,475	JD 7,428,756
	(44.5%)	(45.4%)
Financial	JD 4,627,631	JD 3,935,156
	(38.3%)	(24.%)
Service	(14.6%)	(27.0%)
Insurance	(2.6%)	(3.6%)

Share price index	144.2	146.8
No. of companies	73	72
Price movement (rise)	21	35
(decline)	42	28
(stable)	10	9

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6810/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1860/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6815/22	Deutschemarks
	1.8965/75	Dutch guilders
	1.4948/58	Swiss francs
	35.13/18	Belgian francs
	5.7100/50	French francs
	1249/1250	Italian lire
	145.18/28	Japanese yen
	6.1250/650	Swedish crowns
	6.4925/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.4965/5015	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	417.25/417.75	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market drifted to a weaker close, pulled down by a sell-off among industrials and mounting concern about corporate financial problems. The All Ordinaries index fell 1.6 to 1,669.3.

TOKYO — Shares closed sharply higher with index-linked buying once again dominating trade. The Nikkei index rose 443.73 to 37,650.15.

HONG KONG — Blue chips recovered most of their losses on the day after active buying support emerged in afternoon trading. The Hang Seng index ended only 1.69 points lower at 2,736.55 after plunging more than 40 points in late morning.

SINGAPORE — The exchange posted a record turnover for the second day, with 228.2 million shares traded by the close. The Straits Times industrial index rose 20.30 to 1,549.13.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell sharply on late long liquidation. The Bombay stock exchange index fell 7.93 points to 684.48.

FRANKFURT — A tidal wave of foreign buying pushed German share prices to new all time highs. The DAX index gained 52.59 points to end at a record 1,910.67.

ZURICH — Prices, supported by soaring German share, closed higher after active trade. The SPI index gained 13.2 to 1,121.7.

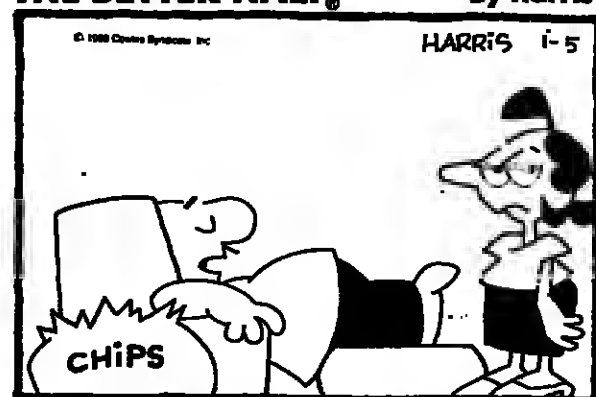
PARIS — The market was buoyed by French and U.S. data and by gains on foreign equity markets. The CAC-40 index rose 29.17 to 1,924.70.

LONDON — Prices edged up towards the close as Wall Street managed to push higher, but the market remained depressed as it had been all week. At 1555 GMT the FTSE was 6.9 higher at 2,352.7.

NEW YORK — Future-related buying pushed blue chips sharply higher into an area of technical resistance. The Dow climbed 20 to 2,606.

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



### JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOWNS

GEBOF

SMEECH

HIRSL

Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumble: ELITE HEDGE LAWFUL THROAT

Answer: That letter made ill will — THE LETTER W

Don't worry — I'll drive

WHAT HORSEPOWER SHOULD BE MIXED WITH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer tomorrow

Answer: That letter made ill will — THE LETTER W

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp





## Graf records 50th consecutive win

TOKYO (R) — Steffi Graf completed her 50th consecutive singles victory on Friday when she overcame Larissa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-0, 6-3 to claim her place in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific women's tennis tournament.

The 20-year-old West German, enjoying the longest winning streak of her career, had equalled her previous best sequence of 46 wins, set in 1988, when she beat American Patty Fendick in the quarter-finals of last month's Australian Open.

She said: "I have been in a great streak. It is very difficult to keep winning matches, not losing matches, as I lost only twice last year."

Graf, the world number one, remains some distance away from establishing a new all-time record for consecutive victories in women's tennis. The record of 74 is held by Martina Navratilova.

Graf said: "I think it's an unbelievable record... It's very difficult to catch up without luck." Graf has lost to only four players — Argentine Gabriela Sabatini (three times), Navratilova (twice), Pam Shriver and Arantxa Sanchez — since January 1987.

Graf will meet third seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland in the semifinals on Saturday. Sanchez faces unseeded Japanese Akiko Kijimuta, who defeated compatriot Nana Miyagi 7-6 (7-2), 2-6, 6-3 on Friday, in the other semifinal.

"I think the competition against Manuela will be tough and it's going to be a longer match because she is a good baseline player," Graf said.

Maleeva, 22, whose agents have announced she will represent Switzerland instead of her native Bulgaria this year, beat Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-0.

## DAVIS CUP

## Malaysia wins the opening games

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Malaysia beat Jordan in the opening matches of the Davis Cup tennis tournament Friday, adding pressure on the Jordanian team in the build-up to the qualifying matches scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.

The presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor and a surprise visit by His Majesty King Hussein added excitement to the matches and lifted the spirits of the Jordanian team. But it was too much work for national team which had to deal with their highly professional competitors from Asia.

Jordan's Ayman Abu Jaber played the first game against Malaysia's number one champion, Adam Malik, a professional. Malik stunned the audience with his bullet-like services and expertise even though he acknowledged his Jordanian opponent's capabilities. "Ayman is a good player but he seemed very nervous and very predictable," he said. The game ended with Malaysia winning, 6:1, 6:0, 6:1.

Hani Al Ali, Jordan's best hope in this tournament was to play next against Malaysia's number two champion V. Selvam. The game was action packed, with neck-to-neck scoring, keeping the audience on edge as the players took



Hani Al Ali

turns taking advantage points and keeping the outcome uncertain until the final game. The excitement heightened in the second set, when both competitors ended the set with six games. Tiebreak was then used according to the international laws of the Davis Cup tennis tournament. The result of the tiebreak was 7:2 for

Malaysia, ending the game with Malaysia winning for the second time, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. "He (Selvam) is an excellent player," Al Ali said. "He played unbelievable back hands." According to the audience and members of the Malaysian team, the Jordanian team exerted great effort during the games.

## Coe's career ends in anti-climax

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Sebastian Coe's international track and field career ended in anti-climax Friday when he was forced to pull out of the heats for the 1,500-metres at the Commonwealth Games.

But while there was disappointment for Coe there was unexpected joy for Kay Morley of Wales who completed a Welsh "double" in the high hurdles, winning in a games record time of 12.91 seconds.

Defending champion Sally Gunnell of England, the new 400 metres hurdles champion, took the silver in 13.12 and her teammate Lesley-Anne Skeete took the bronze in 13.31. Australian Jane Flemming, who won the heptathlon title, was fourth in 13.37.

Olympic silver medalist Colin Jackson of Wales won the men's 100-metres hurdles title on Sunday.

Australia won its eighth track and field gold when Simon Arkell won the pole vault with a clearance of 5.35 metres, a games record. Ian Tuller of England took the silver at 5.25 metres and Simon Poelman of New Zealand, the silver medalist in the decathlon, was third with a clearance of 5.20 metres.

The women's high and long jump finals were also being decided as was the women's 10,000 metres. The men's discus final was also due to be decided later Friday.

Besides Coe's withdrawal there were no surprises in the 1,500-metres heats, with all the favorites including Peter Elliott of England winning through to Saturday's final. John Walker, New Zealand's veteran runner, also clinched a place in the "blue ribbon" metric mile.

Coe's last race was the 800-metres final Thursday when he finished sixth. He was hoping to end his career Saturday in the 1,500 metres final.

"I will come here and spectate tomorrow," Coe said. "I want to watch my training partner and close friend Wendy Sly compete. Now I'm a retired old spectator I hope they don't take my accreditation away."

The men's 4x100 metres relay heats ended in controversy when Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria and Scotland protested England's second changeover in the second heat.

They claimed the change between Tony Jarrett and John Regis was illegal.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMARA HIRSCH  
© 1990 The Jordan Times, Amman, J.

## WINNING DEFENSE 46 YEARS AGO

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ 9  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ A K Q 7  
♣ A K J 8

WEST EAST  
♠ Q 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♠ J  
♥ 7 ♥ 6 4 3 2  
♦ 10 5 ♦ 3 6 4 3  
♣ Q ♣ 10 9 7 7

SOUTH  
♠ A 10  
♥ A K Q J  
♦ 9 8 2  
♣ 6 5 4 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
7 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠  
How good were the bridge players of several generations ago? This hand is from Milton Work's *Academy of Bridge* of 1924. What surprises us is the note that it was played on a commuter train in 1923!

The game was auction bridge, so the bidding shown is as it might go today. When North shows interest

in a grand slam by confirming possession of all aces and asking for kings, South diagnoses correctly that his solid hearts make shooting for 13 tricks a worthwhile effort. We venture to claim that most declarers would have little difficulty fulfilling the grand slam. Declarer wins the first trick and ruffs a spade high. On the fourth heart, the long club in his hand is established, but there is no entry to the closed hand to cash the trick.

If they could defend that well in a commuter game, we would have dreamed crossing swords with those players at rubber bridge. It might have proved to be an expensive pastime.

## HOROSCOPE

## FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you are apt to have a sudden inspiration that could end in meaning a great deal to you and those around you. Don't lose sight of your larger ambitions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Keep discussions about money out of period while having social pleasures with interesting friends. Many unfinished tasks can be richly completed at your home.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can now go forward by clearing up obligations that have been on hold. Your attachment and you can discriminate in whatever your mutual wishes happen to be.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Invite chatters into your home now; you have a good chance to get close companions and your mate to get along better.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Jams with friends to see kin, neighbours and close companions will work out happily. Your family and you will have a good time outside the doors of home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Encourage friends who will go out with you socially to cooperate with your wishes. In any money matters be sure you operate with anyone else who is involved.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put off inviting associates into your home until a more convenient moment. Don't let some unexpected delays hold up jams with attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now can go forward with your daily activities with considerably more confidence. You cer-

tainly need to avoid quick or impulsive decisions in business.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Many friends who have wishes different from your own should be catered to now. You can now come to a more agreeable practical understanding with mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for some cooperative friends who are in a position of power or authority. This is the time to put into long desired ambitions at your home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let a practical problem bring a sticky situation between you and a good friend. The time is not yet to make those changes to your dwelling.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Entertain persons in your home who at one time or another have rendered you favours. Being cooperative with mate will bring a flow of romantic happiness.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are tempted to feel your views are the only right ones in business but listen to experts. Now you can invite charming partners into your home for a happy time.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has all kinds of depth of interests and purposes that are not at all understood on the surface so be sure you do not accept your child at face value. Study closely, to understand this unusual personality who will not be thwarted in gaining his or her aims.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

## Al Faisali crowned

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Friday presented the Premier League Cup to Al Faisali team captain and the gold medals to members of the team after winning the championship. In the last game with Al Ramtha, the runner-up, Al Faisali received its first defeat of the season which was held at Amman International Stadium. Al Ramtha by its triumph in the last game came in the second place after Al Faisali. Al Faisali is scheduled to leave Amman for Baghdad on Saturday to represent Jordan in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Cup championship. Taking part in the championship alongside Al Faisali are Ismaili of Egypt, Ahl Sanas of North Yemen and Zawra of Iraq.

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## JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

The Ohara School of Ikebana (Japanese fresh flower arrangement) announces intensive courses for beginners and advanced level students starting Feb. 13, 1990 for 6 weeks at the Khalil Al Rahman Society.

The courses will be taught by Professor Masatoshi Tomita, a master of the Ohara School in Tokyo.

For more information please call Mrs. Kabariti at 824302 and for registration at Aqaba Tours Tel. 658014, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman, between Feb. 4 and Feb. 10, except Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

## WANTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A leading company in Jordan is seeking the employment of an executive secretary with the following qualifications:

- 1) Good command of English language.
- 2) Typing in both Arabic and English.
- 3) Experienced in filing, correspondence and other related matters.
- 4) Knowledge of word-processor operation.

Attractive salary and incentives are offered.

Mail C.V. to P.O. Box 93  
Amman - Jordan.

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Unfurnished flat with telephone, second floor, three bedrooms, living, dining, sitting, veranda, separate facilities and central heating, own entrance, garage. (The building consisting of two flats only). Excellent location in Shmeisani

Pls. call (665658)

## FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

First floor, fully furnished, consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, reception area, dining room, fully-set kitchen, own telephone. At the 4th Circle, Jabal Amman.

Contact telephone 671925

## REQUIRED

Chef wanted for 4 star hotel operation. Must be experienced in Turkish/Arabic cooking. Competitive salary and benefits.

Please reply in confidence with full C.V. and a recent photograph to:

P.O. Box 921-087  
Amman - Jordan

The Cosy Atmosphere  
For A Good  
Squash Game  
Al-Ribat Fitness Center  
Tel. 823274

**THE Daily Crossword** by George Ulfarson

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Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

**COMING TO AMERICA**

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

**TWO MOON JUNCTION**

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Mahmoud Yassin... Su'ad Husni

In **WHERE'S MY BRAIN?**

(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

**FRANTIC**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111

**BEVERLY HILLS**

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



# Soviet troops likely to leave Europe by 1995

## U.S. to cut number of troops in Europe to 225,000 — Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union is likely to pull all its troops from Europe by 1995, but the Western allies must remain wary of "the only nation on earth capable of destroying the United States," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told Congress Thursday.

Cheney said President George Bush's new proposal that Moscow and Washington seek agreement on deeper troop cuts in Europe than previously contemplated would "preserve... a viable, useful" U.S. military presence on the continent.

Bush in his state of the union speech Wednesday proposed reducing U.S. and Soviet combat forces in Europe to no more than 225,000 for each side — a drop of 50,000 from the previous U.S. proposal at East-West troop reduction talks now under way in Vienna.

The state of the union address spoke of a U.S. troop ceiling of 195,000, but that number would apply to NATO's "central front," basically Germany. The 225,000 ceiling would be for all Europe, including U.S. forces in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and Britain.

Bush said that with "communism crumbling" in Eastern Europe, the time had come to swiftly conclude agreements limiting conventional, strategic and chemical weapons.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Cheney said "caution is still in order" in considering relaxing

U.S. defences, even though Moscow is reducing its military spending and is unlikely to initiate an attack on NATO territory.

"The Soviet Union remains the only nation on Earth capable of destroying the United States," Cheney said, adding that even if all Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe, Moscow would retain its geographic advantage in the event of a European crisis.

He said it was important not to drop below a certain troop level in Europe.

Sen. John Warner, the ranking Republican on the committee, sought and received an assurance from Cheney that the administration would not consider going beyond Bush's latest troop-cut proposal in the foreseeable future.

"This is the worst possible time to contemplate changes in strategy," Warner said.

Cheney estimated that the 225,000 U.S. troop level in Europe could be achieved "within a year or two certainly" after an agreement is ratified. But he said the troops would be sent elsewhere and not removed from military service.

However, Sen. Alan Dixon

pressed Cheney as to why the Bush administration would wait for an arms control agreement before reducing U.S. troops in light of moves by U.S. allies to cut their forces and pressures in the Eastern Bloc for the Soviets to leave.

"They're going to get out of Eastern Europe whether they like it or not without any agreement with the United States," Dixon said. "They're going to kick them out. And we're waiting here to do things until we have the agreement."

"I'm not saying strip until we're naked. I'm saying do sensible things now here in our country even without agreements," Dixon said.

Cheney said the administration is not oblivious to the need to reduce U.S. forces overseas, and has plans to end U.S. operations at several foreign bases.

But to ensure the NATO alliance and a peaceful process, "we should not unilaterally bring them home until we've got an agreement," Cheney said.

At the White House, Chief of Staff John Sununu said Bush's new troop-cut proposal was not intended to prop up a politically weakened Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as he faces a critical meeting next week of the Communist Party Central Committee.

While acknowledging dramatic changes in the political landscape of Eastern Europe, Cheney said

the Soviets are continuing to modernise their strategic nuclear arsenal and will be more capable in the 1990s to adapt new technologies to weapons systems.

Cheney said the Defence Department would present to Congress within a few months a revamped five-year plan for troop levels, deployments, weapons requirements and other strategic issues in light of the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.

Among the assumptions used in this planning, he said, is that "the Soviets will be out of Eastern Europe or virtually out of Eastern Europe five years hence, that the governments of Eastern Europe will be democratically elected, non-Communist regimes." He called this "a very real possibility."

Remarks to the committee by Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared aimed largely at heading off any political momentum toward an immediate, radical reduction in U.S. military capabilities.

"We must not shatter the armed forces," Powell said. "We must not make them a shadow of strength."

Powell said the Defence Department's latest assessment of the overall Soviet threat to U.S. security was based on acknowledgement of a "dramatic diminution" in the possibility of East-West conflict, but also an unsettling uncertainty about the future.

# Bulgarian Communist Party congress elects new leader

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — A moderate reformer became the new head of the Bulgarian Communist Party Friday after a marathon closed session that ousted top old guard leaders from the new supreme party council.

Alexander Lilov, a party veteran, was elected until the ouster of hard-liner Tudor Zhivkov as party leader in November, has said he recognises the need for an overhaul of the party before multi-party elections in May.

Outgoing party boss Petar Mladenov, who replaced Zhivkov, will remain as state president. In a bow to reform drives and his failing health, he had proposed that the head of the Communist Party and the head of the state be separated.

Among those not on the new

supreme council is Premier Georgi Atanasov, who resigned Thursday with his 22-member cabinet after coming under sharp criticism during the emergency party congress for failing to solve Bulgaria's growing economic problems.

Atanasov's resignation was necessary "to form a cabinet on a national basis," said the Bulgarian news agency (BTA).

But Atanasov's government will continue to serve until the parliament accepts its resignation, BTA said. No date was given for a parliament session to consider the resignations.

Trying to appease opposition demands for power-sharing, the communists have made a vague proposal for a government of "national concord" to rule until

the country's first postwar multi-party elections in May.

But the opposition so far has been reluctant to accept the offer because the Communists haven't specified how much power they will share.

Compared with their East Bloc neighbours, Bulgarian Communists have given up relatively little power, bolstered by a century of roots in the nation's politics and a relatively weak, although growing, opposition.

The election of the new 131-member policy-making council, less than half the size of the Central Committee it replaces under new party rules, was announced after 19 hours of reportedly sharp debate.

The council is to meet monthly and set policy.

# U.S. seek to increase aid for El Salvador

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department has announced a proposed \$55 million increase in economic assistance for El Salvador as Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani headed into high-level meetings here.

Before the formal announcement, an administration official had confirmed a published report that an aid cut was planned, but the official figures showed \$284 million proposed for El Salvador for fiscal 1991 compared with \$229 million for the current year. The official was unavailable afterward to explain the discrepancy.

Other Central American countries, however, were cut back as part of a general reordering of priorities the administration is undertaking in light of additional claims on the aid programme in Panama and Eastern Europe.

Military aid to El Salvador would undergo a slight increase in fiscal 1991, to \$91.4 million from the current level of \$84.6 million. The administration has been concerned that Congress may impose sharp cutbacks on El Salvador in response to continuing human rights abuses in that country.

Bush reiterated his strong support for Cristiani during a photo session at the White House.

In the face of congressional criticism over alleged military involvement in the slaying of six Jesuit priests, Bush praised Cristiani for arresting four officers and four soldiers in the case.

"I know of his commitment to democracy," Bush said. "I have been very impressed with the courage he has shown in going after those who have broken the law in his country," he said.

Cristiani earlier went to Capitol Hill for a meeting with key House of Representatives Democrats including speaker Tom Foley, majority leader Richard Gephardt, and Congressman Joe Moakley, head of a House task force looking into El Salvador.

# Angolan army reportedly captures rebel stronghold

LISBON (R) — The Angolan army said Friday it had captured the south-eastern rebel stronghold of Mavinga in some of the fiercest fighting in the country's 15-year civil war, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) said.

LUSA quoted a military source as saying there were thousands of casualties from both sides when government troops overran the UNITA-held town Wednesday.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) officials in Lisbon were unavailable for immediate comment.

UNITA officials in Lisbon contacted later reported heavy fighting overnight in the region but denied that the town had fallen.

They said that as of early morning Friday, government troops were still 30 kilometres from Mavinga.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi broke off a European tour Wednesday to lead his men in battle and upon his return to Angola announced an all-out offensive against the Cuban-backed military.

LUSA said government troops supported by MiG-23 planes, heavy artillery and armoured tanks had broken rebel defences on the Lomba River in the final phase of an offensive launched around Christmas.

The military source told LUSA that the army now needed to consolidate its positions in captured ground.

Mavinga is a strategic base with an air strip and hospital. It stands on the route to UNITA headquarters at Jamba in the south-east corner of Angola and serves as a base from which to launch attacks into the interior.

# Romanian front, opposition to share power until polls

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Romania's revolutionary government agreed Thursday to share power with the opposition until Romania's first free postwar elections on May 20.

The National Salvation Front (NSF), which governs through an 11-member ruling council, will be replaced by a new panel that will include political parties "who are competitive, without regard for their political colour," said Cezar Ionescu, vice president of the outgoing governing council.

The front has been facing demands that it share power or resign.

A front proposal earlier Thursday for expansion of the ruling council and establishment of a "mini-parliament" with veto power over the government was dropped.

In the new Council of National Unity, each of the 29 parties and the front will have three seats for a total of 90 seats, said Radu Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party, one of the three

main opposition groups. "The 90 other seats will go to non-political members from 'all strata of the population from around the country, including people who participated in the revolution,'" he said.

The new council will convene on Feb. 9, he said. Campeanu said a new president will be elected by the new council.

Also Thursday, at the trial of four of Ceausescu's top aides, the prosecution demanded that the defendants be convicted of a more severe crime — "co-authorship to genocide."

The four — former Communist Party Secretary Emil Bobu, third in the Ceausescu hierarchy after the dictator and his wife; former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu and former politburo members Manea Manescu and Ion Dincea, already have pleaded guilty to a charge of "complicity to genocide" and admitted backing Ceausescu's orders to shoot demonstrators during last month's revolution.

# WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## Cosmonaut rides space motorcycle

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet cosmonaut took a spin in space on a special motorcycle designed for rescuing spacemen, and officials said the vehicle's maiden journey outside the orbiting station Mir was a success. Flight Engineer Alexander Serebrov rode the cycle as far as 33 metres from the station, while mission commander Alexander S. Viktorenko stayed at Mir's exit hatch and monitored the operations. Soviet TV interrupted its regular programmes several times during the day for special coverage of the five-hour spacewalk. Live pictures showed Serebrov, 45, attached to a tether anchored on Mir as he prepared to ride the cycle. A taped report showed the cosmonaut, with his left side in the sun and right in shadow, slowly riding away from Mir, his image growing smaller. A correspondent emphasised the drama of floating in space while connected to Mir only by a rope. He told viewers in the nighttime newscast Vremya it was "risky and dangerous work." But TASS said the results of the 33-metre test ride and three five-metre trips were good. "Its easy operation and good manoeuvrability were confirmed," the news agency said. Further tests are planned Monday.

## 113 dead in China river collision

PEKING (R) — As many as 113 people were killed when a passenger ferry and an oil tanker collided on China's Yangtze River last week, according to an official report reaching Peking Friday. The Thursday edition of the Shanghai Liberation Daily said the Donggua ferry with 151 people on board collided with the Daqing tanker near Anqing in China's eastern province of Anhui on Jan. 24. Rescue workers recovered the wreck of the ferry last Monday and found 56 bodies. Altogether 70 people were confirmed dead and 43 still missing, the daily said. Thirty-eight survived the disaster. Many of the passengers were travelling home for the lunar new year festival. The daily said an investigation had begun. It did not indicate what caused the accident. Ferry accidents are common on the crowded Yangtze, China's longest river.

## VOA eliminates 6 language broadcasts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Voice of America (VOA) has informed employees that budget cuts have forced the elimination of six of its 43 language broadcasts, silencing the U.S. government's radio station on three continents. "We are doing to ourselves what 30 years of Soviet jamming couldn't do," VOA Director Richard W. Carlson told hundreds of broadcasters, editors and engineers. "This is the toughest and saddest day of my professional life." Going off the air by April 1 will be the Turkish, Greek, Slovenian, Lao, Uzbek and Swahili services. The 57 employees of those services will lose their jobs. Elimination of the six services will save VOA \$2.9 million, officials said. VOA, which has been providing news and entertainment to millions of listeners since 1942, has been grappling with budget cuts for several years. Since 1987 it has laid off more than 200 people, shut down five bureaus in the United States and abroad, and eliminated hundreds of radio hours in various languages. "If we don't get budget relief, more cuts could be possible," said Carlson. Carlson said VOA and its parent, the U.S. Information Agency, had decided that "amputation" of several services was preferable to "dissemination" of broadcast departments across the board. The selection of the services to be eliminated was made in accordance with a list of priorities that takes into account the geopolitical importance of the targeted countries and the availability of other foreign media there.

## Thatcher rules out smear campaign

LONDON (AP) — Newly discovered documents about an operation to discredit the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the 1970s contain no evidence of a smear campaign against British politicians, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Thursday. But lawmakers who claim they were targets of such an operation pressed for a full inquiry, warning the allegations would not disappear otherwise. "The time has come for a full, open and honest uncovering of these things, so that people in Northern Ireland can know that this has come to an end, the dirty tricks that were carried on," said the Rev. Ian Paisley, the province's militant Protestant leader. Paisley, described as a target of smears, had been leading opposition to government policy during the 1970s. For years, Mrs. Thatcher has denied allegations by former army press officer Colin Wallace of a dirty tricks campaign against the Irish Republican Army and some politicians. On Wednesday, she acknowledged in a letter to a Conservative Party lawmaker that her statements had been based on false information from civil servants. British ministers are forbidden to examine papers of former administrations and must rely on facts given to them by civil servants. Her letter was released one day after her government confirmed the existence of a covert operation code-named "clockwork orange" to feed lies to journalists reporting from Northern Ireland, where the IRA is fighting to end British rule.

# Baker backs Gorbachev plan for 35 nation summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker gave qualified approval Thursday to a proposal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for a 35-nation summit meeting next year to sign a treaty to reduce troops and tanks in Europe.

Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that such a meeting could also provide a framework to deal with the question of German reunification.

But he said the Soviets first must agree to the principle that free elections are a human right.

And, Baker said, holding the 35-nation summit meeting would depend on completing the treaty to reduce NATO and Warsaw Pact troops and non-nuclear weapons in Europe.

Negotiations in Vienna are progressing, although Baker said there is disagreement on how to deal with combat aircraft and helicopters.

The 35-nation conference would bring together the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, the Vatican and all the countries of Europe except Albania. The same 35 signed the Helsinki agreement of 1975, which promoted human rights and, in effect, recognised the post-World War II borders of Europe.

Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden

Jr. had urged the administration of President George Bush to accept Gorbachev's proposal.

Baker will hold talks next Thursday and Friday in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and possibly Gorbachev. Baker's endorsement of the summit proposal, although qualified, represented another attempt by the Bush administration to back the Soviet leader.

Baker said the United States is prepared to normalise relations with Nicaragua if this month's elections are certified free and fair and if the Sandinista government halts its support for leftist guerrillas in neighbouring El Salvador.

"If we determine that it is free and fair... and we determine that they have indeed stopped their support of subversion in neighbouring countries or in other places in Latin America, then we'd be prepared to normalise our relations with that government," Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Baker said, however, that it was important that the Sandinista government relent and admit members of President Bush's congressional observer team to watch election preparations and the Feb. 25 balloting.

# Bonn awaits German unity on its own terms

BONN (R) — West Germany, confident it will soon forge a single German state on its own terms, has written off East Berlin's Communists as players in the high-stakes poker game over reunification.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected Prime Minister Hans Modrow's offer of a united but neutral Germany Thursday, saying he would pursue his vision of a single fatherland with the new government that emerges from free elections next month.

Kohl spent Thursday afternoon in West Berlin discussing strategy for the March 18 polls with several conservative East German politicians his Christian Democratic (CDU) Party wants to support against the Communists.

Modrow's plan, a stunning admission of Communist political bankruptcy after 40 years of defending a separate German state, was "too little and too late" for Bonn to take seriously, a Western diplomat said.

"It was a last gasp, both politically and personally," said the envoy, who saw the move as a desperate bid to fight against a rapid collapse of state authority and the continued exodus of more than 2,000 East Germans a day to the West.

In a frosty reaction to the most breath-taking concession made by an East German leader, Kohl declared: "We will come to an agreement on the steps along the way to German unity with a government that emerges from free elections in East Germany."

"The West German government is prepared to start these talks immediately after March 18," he said in a statement. Bonn's brush-off reflected its

growing conviction that East Germany's crisis is so deep that its leaders have no choice but to agree to West German terms.

"The West Germans are calling the tune," another diplomat said. "They can have unity when and how they like it."

A Bonn official demonstrated the Kohl government's confidence by playing down the neutrality call even though it was clearly backed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who announced Moscow's about-turn on German unity during Modrow's visit Tuesday.

"Neither neutrality nor a step-by-step plan are elements that we could accept," said the official, who asked not to be named. "We had expected for some time that Moscow would want a price for unity, and neutrality would be that price."

"But that is not acceptable and the Soviet Union must know it. The last word has not yet been spoken."

Until now, Kohl has been careful to publicly support Modrow to help avoid chaos in East Germany. He used this argument to fend off critics who wanted him to cancel Modrow's first visit to Bonn on Feb. 14-15.

The chancellor, who will now only discuss emergency aid for East Germany with Modrow, will also meet his counterpart at the world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland Saturday.

In recent weeks, Bonn has been quick to pile on the pressure when Modrow tried to revive the hated security police and pass a restrictive election law against an outcry of protest from the opposition. The prime minister backed down on both counts.

The Western CDU has also started campaigning against the East German Social Democrats (SPD), the front-runner among the opposition and sister party to the West German SPD challenging Kohl in a general election in December.

"The West Germans are treating the East German elections as if they were just another state election here," another Western diplomat commented. "It's almost as if the only issue now is the effect that the election will have on the election here."

As if to illustrate the groundswell hurting the Germans towards reunification, West German television reported East German Evelyn Grossmann's gold medal at the European skating championships in Leningrad Thursday as if it were a victory for a local favourite.

Interviewing her and third-placed West German Marina Kielmann, it screened only their home towns — Karl-Marx-Stadt and Dortmund — under their names.

Meanwhile Berliners could hardly believe what they heard — a Communist prime minister calling for their city divided for decades to be turned once against into the capital of a united Germany.

"It can't be true," gasped a middle-aged woman near the East German parliament building, her Berlin accent thick and rich. "It would be so wonderful to get the old city traditions back, make it like it once was."

"Fantastic. People here have dreamed of this for so long," said Jaegeren Behrendt, 19, as he stood at the entrance to a fast food restaurant in West Berlin.

"There'll be a few parties going on now."

But the joy was tempered by doubts about the four-step unity plan unveiled by Modrow Thursday.

A significant minority of people in both halves of the city said they were worried about the possible re-emergence of a German superpower and the changes it would bring to East Germany's 16 million people.

Berlin, the heart of the 18th century Prussian Empire and capital of Bismarck's newly-united German nation in the late 19th century, was divided after Hitler's Third Reich collapsed in 1945. Much of its superb architecture turned into rubble after six years of war.

It was since been administered by the World War II allies the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France.

For 28 years until last November, the concrete wall masterminded by disgraced East German Communist chief Erich Honecker divided the city and its people. On one side stood a glittering showcase of capitalist excess, on the other a shabby and polluted monument to Stalinism.

Now, with Honecker's hard-line swept away and the wall breached throughout the city, people mix freely on both sides.

"It suits me just fine," said Karl Grote, 55, an East Berlin glassworker. "It doesn't bother me that the West Germans would take us over. It would mean the city would be back like it was, and anything would be better than this."

"Look at that bloody parliament building," said Hans-Dietrich Wittstock, a West Berliner in

his 70s.

"It's so ugly and they knocked down a castle to build it. Once it's one city again, we can start to restore it properly."

He dismissed as alarmist unease in countries like Britain and France over the possibility of a mighty German state rising once again to stamp all over Europe.

"I know what I'm talking about. It was in the Hitler youth and I got taken prisoner in Russia, and I tell you it will not happen again," he said. "People outside don't understand. We are democrats now and we'll stay that way."

But other Berliners were less happy about the idea of speedy reunification.

"I don't want it to happen until we in the East can contribute something," said Martina Gese, 19. "It's a question of human pride, we don't just want to be swallowed up by the West Germans. They're so arrogant."

But she, saw little practical alternative to unification, saying: "The economy here is so wretched, we can't fend for ourselves."

Other people also voiced unease about Modrow's use of the phrase "united fatherland," with its echoes of a past that most Germans have spent more than 40 years trying to shake off.

"I thought German unification would come by the year 2000. Now it looks as if it might even come this year. The speed of events has been unbelievable," said Gerhard Westphal, a West Berlin taxi driver.

"I'm not exactly jumping up and down with joy but I hope it will be a better Germany that emerges."

# C8LUMN

## Crime Increases in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (R) — A sharp rise in killings and suicide is worrying authorities in the Sultanate of Brunei, police said Friday. The number of cases of murder rose to five last year compared to only one in 1988 and of suicide to six from four. Haji Abdul Rahman Hamid, head of the Police Crime Division, told reporters. The 230,000 people of Brunei, located on the northern coast of Borneo Island, enjoy one of the world's highest per capita incomes, pay no taxes and have free education and medical care. Haji Abdul Rahman said 11 people were arrested in connection with eight cases of rape reported last year, down from 15 cases in 1988, but no one has been convicted so far because it was difficult to determine if the reports were genuine. He said in some cases women "cry rape" because they had engaged in premarital sex, which is illegal in Muslim Brunei, and feared the anger of their parents. He said more young Bruneians, particularly school leavers and jobless youths, were falling into bad company and turning to anti-social behaviour.

## Report of royal killings found in bank vault

LONDON (AP) — The coded telegram from Bolshevik revolutionaries reportedly telling of the execution of Russian Czar Nicholas II and his family in 1918 will be sold at auction, Sotheby's has said. The telegram was hidden in a bank vault for nearly 70 years among a mass of papers left by the original investigator of the Czar's death, according to auction house officials. The papers will be auctioned in London on April 5, Sotheby's said. The auction house would not disclose the owner's name or say exactly where the papers were concealed. "The owner knew that her uncle called them his 'dynastic papers,' but until bringing them to us we had no idea of what they were," said John Stuart, Sotheby's consultant on Russian art and history. An auction estimate of £300,000 to £500,000 (\$500,000 to \$840,000) has been put on the papers. "There is interest in them everywhere. It isn't clear whether the Soviet government will buy them," Stuart said. Stuart said the owner is a descendant of Prince Nikolai Orlov who went into exile in France after the Russian Revolution. He said Orlov inherited the papers in 1924 on the death of his fellow-exile Nikolai Sokolov.

## 2,000 goats shot to save island

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two thousand hungry goats have been shot to preserve the delicate ecology of an island off southern California, conservation officials have said. Another 500 goats were spared on Santa Catalina Island, a number of officials considered to be "manageable," said Penelope O'Malley, a spokeswoman for the island's conservancy. She said the killings were an "unfortunate necessity." The goat herd was eating up grasses and shrubs, depriving native animals, such as the island fox, of the food necessary for their survival. The effort to trim the herd down to size began on Jan. 15 when four professional sharpshooters hired by the conservancy began shooting the animals. The herd was established in the 1800s by Spanish missionaries.

# Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	C.	F.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	05	41	06	Clear
ATHENS	10	50	14	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	12	54	80	Breezy
BANGKOK	24	75	85	Clear
BARCELONA	20	68	90	Clear
BEIJING	02	36	92	Clear
BOMBAY	08	48	78	Clear
CAROL	02	36	92	Clear
COPENHAGEN	01	34	10	Cloudy
DUBLIN	01	34	11	Clear
HONG KONG	11	52	80	Clear
ISTANBUL	05	41	10	Cloudy
JAKARTA	08	48	09	Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	53	17	Clear
MADRID	01	34	11	Clear
MEXICO	20	68	94	Cloudy
MONTREAL	07	19	45	00
MOSCOW	01	34	01	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	21	70	81	Clear